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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

United States of America: amendment to draft resolution A/73/L.3

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

1. Insert the following new preambular paragraphs immediately after the last preambular paragraph:

Expressing serious concern that in Cuba the severe lack of access to information and freedom of expression, the complete absence of judicial independence, and arbitrary arrests and detentions are undermining the collective efforts to implement Sustainable Development Goal 16[1] meant to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels,

Expressing serious concern also that in Cuba the absence of women from the most powerful decision-making bodies, including the executive committee of the Council of Ministers and senior military leadership, severely undermines the collective efforts to implement Sustainable Development Goal 5 meant to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by countering the deeply rooted gender-based discrimination that results from patriarchal attitudes and related social norms,

Expressing serious concern further that in Cuba the trade union monopoly of the Central Union of Cuban Workers, the prohibition on the right to strike and restrictions on collective bargaining and agreements, including that government authorities and Central Union officials have the final say on all such agreements, severely undermine the collective efforts to implement Sustainable Development Goal 8 meant to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all,

2. Add the following new operative paragraphs immediately after operative paragraph 3:

[1] See resolution 70/1.

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4. *Calls upon* Cuba to fully grant its citizens internationally recognized civil, political and economic rights and freedoms, including freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and free access to information;

5. *Also calls upon* Cuba, including the judicial and security branches, to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment in which an independent, diverse and pluralistic civil society can operate free from undue hindrance and insecurity;

6. *Urges* Cuba to end widespread and serious restrictions, in law and in practice, on the right to freedom of expression, opinion, associations and peaceful assembly, both online and offline, including by ending the harassment, intimidation and persecution of political opponents, human rights defenders, women's and minority rights activists, labour leaders, students' rights activists, journalists, bloggers, social media users, social media page administrators, media workers, religious leaders and lawyers;

7. *Strongly urges* Cuba to release persons arbitrarily detained for the legitimate exercise of their human rights, to consider rescinding unduly harsh sentences for exercising such fundamental freedoms and to end reprisals against individuals, including for cooperating with the United Nations human rights mechanisms;

8. *Calls upon* Cuba to launch a comprehensive accountability process in response to all cases of serious human rights violations, including those involving the Cuban judiciary and security branches, and calls upon the Government of Cuba to end impunity for such violations;